holes and vaults, located in access controlled areas, which are under constant surveillance.

(b) The method followed by India for disposal of nuclear waste is as per international standards and as followed by developed countries. The disposal operations are carried out under the surveillance of regulatory authorities.

Nuclear technology for health care

1659. SHRI S. AGNIRAJ: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is a proposal to develop nuclear technology for health care and food securities;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) by when it would be implemented; and

(d) what would be the cost of these projects?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ATOMIC ENERGY (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) The Department of Atomic Energy (DAE) is already involved in utilizing radiation technology for sterilisation of medical products and processing of food products. In total, there are three plants—one for sterilisation of medical products, other for hygenisation of spices and other products and the third one for sprout inhibition of onions.

(b) DAE is not setting up any new such plants. However, DAE is encouraging private entrepreneurs to set up such plants. A few MOUs have already been signed in this regard.

(c) and (d) Departmental plants are already completed. Three plants in private sector are in various stages of implementation and may come up in next 1-2 years of time. Cost of a typical industrial scale radiation processing plant is around Rs. 7 crore.

Threat posed by Uranium Radiation to the lives of Adivasis in Meghalaya

1660. SHRI NANDI YELLAIAH: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the infection of mysterious diseases caused by radiation in villages situated around uranium rich Domiasiyal